

CLAIMS:

1. Apparatus for transferring flowable particulate material from one station to another, comprising a carrier for the material, and means externally of the carrier for moving the carrier between stations, the arrangement being such that the carrier and the means are not connected mechanically for movement of the carrier.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, the carrier comprising magnetic properties and the external movement means comprising a magnet may comprise a magnet.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, the carrier being mounted in a housing.
4. Apparatus according to claim 3, the housing providing a guide for guiding the travel of the carrier.
5. Apparatus according to claim 3, the housing providing the guide for guiding travel of the movement means.
6. Apparatus according to claim 3 or claim 4, the housing comprising a tube externally of which the moving means is mounted.
7. Apparatus according to claim 6, including sensors disposed about the tube for determining the position of the carrier therein.

8. Apparatus according to any preceding claim adapted for passing fluid into the housing for cleaning the internal surfaces thereof.
9. Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the fluid is a liquid.
10. Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the fluid is a gas.
11. Apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
12. Material handling apparatus comprising a first station and a second station and apparatus according to any preceding claim for transferring flowable particulate material from the one station to the other.
13. A method for transferring flowable particulate material from one station to another comprising the use of apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 12.